

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for use with a speech recognition device for improving speech recognition performance, said method comprising:

identifying a start position of a speech region of speech data for which speech recognition is to be performed;

generating, from said speech data for which speech recognition is to be performed, a plurality of pieces of speech data including said speech region and a varying period of a preceding non-speech region, where ~~whose~~ start positions of non-speech regions differ for the plurality of pieces of speech data;

performing speech recognition using each of said pieces of speech data to obtain a plurality of recognized results; and

identifying a most numerous recognized result from among the plurality of obtained recognized results;

wherein, by sequentially shifting the start position of said non-speech region from ~~a~~ the start position of the speech region back to a position preceding by a predetermined time, a plurality of pieces of speech data whose start positions of non-speech regions differ are generated from said speech data for which speech recognition is to be performed.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the information of the start position of said speech region is provided by a speech recognition engine which performs said speech recognition.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 3, wherein the information of the start position of said speech region is obtained by performing a recognition process on a first speech data by using said speech recognition engine, or is obtained by averaging speech data for several pieces of data from the start which have been subjected to the recognition processing.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein a plurality of pieces of speech data whose start positions of non-speech regions differ are generated in such

a manner that analog-to-digital conversion is performed on the input signal at a predetermined sampling time interval, the speech signal is stored in sequence in a speech buffer in an order of sampling, and a position at which reading from the speech buffer starts is changed.

6. (Original) A method according to Claim 5, wherein said predetermined sampling time interval is for one piece of sampling data.

7. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein a speech recognition engine is provided for each of a plurality of pieces of speech data whose start positions of non-speech regions differ, and the most numerous recognized result from among the recognized results of each speech recognition engine is identified.

8. (Currently Amended) A speech recognition device comprising:

a speech data generation section for identifying a start position of a speech region of speech data for which speech recognition is to be performed and generating, from said speech data for which speech recognition is to be performed, a plurality of pieces of speech data including said speech region and a varying period of a preceding non-speech region, where ~~whose~~ start positions of non-speech regions differ for the plurality of pieces of speech data;

a speech recognition engine for performing speech recognition on each of said pieces of speech data to obtain a plurality of recognized results; and

a recognized result selection section for selecting a most numerous recognized result from among the plurality of obtained recognized results;

wherein said speech data generation section generates a plurality of pieces of speech data whose start positions of non-speech regions differ from speech data for which speech recognition is to be performed by sequentially shifting the start position of said non-speech region to a position preceding by a predetermined time from ~~a~~ the start position of the speech region.

9-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A speech recognition device according to Claim ~~8~~11, wherein the information of said start position of the speech region is obtained by performing a recognition process on a first speech data by using said speech recognition engine, or is

obtained by averaging data of speech data for several pieces of data from the start, which have been subjected to the recognition processing.

13. (Previously Presented) A speech recognition device according to Claim 8, further comprising:

an analog to digital converter for converting an input speech signal from analog to digital at a predetermined sampling time interval; and

a speech buffer for storing the converted speech data in an order of sampling, wherein said speech data generation section generates a plurality of pieces of speech data whose start positions of non-speech regions differ, by changing positions at which reading from the speech buffer starts.

14. (Original) A speech recognition device according to Claim 13, wherein said predetermined sampling time interval is for one piece of sampling data.

15. (Currently Amended) A speech recognition device for improving speech recognition performance, said speech recognition device comprising:

a speech data generation section for identifying a start position of a speech region of speech data for which speech recognition is to be performed and generating, from said speech data for which speech recognition is to be performed, a plurality of pieces of speech data including said speech region and a varying period of a preceding non-speech region, where ~~whose~~ start positions of non-speech regions differ for the plurality of pieces of speech data;

a speech recognition engine, for performing speech recognition on the speech data, provided for each of a plurality of pieces of speech data whose start positions of non-speech regions differ in order to obtain a plurality of recognized results; and

a recognized result section for selecting and providing as an output a most numerous recognized result from among the plurality of obtained recognized results;

wherein said speech data generation section generates, from speech data for which speech recognition is to be performed, a plurality of pieces of speech data whose start positions of non-speech regions differ, by sequentially shifting the start position of said non-speech region from a the start position of the speech region back to a position preceding by a predetermined time.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) A speech recognition device according to Claim 15, further comprising:

an analog to digital converter for converting an input speech signal from analog to digital at a predetermined sampling time interval; and

a speech buffer for storing the converted speech data in an order of sampling, wherein said speech data generation section generates a plurality of pieces of speech data whose start positions of non-speech regions differ, by changing a reading position from the speech buffer, and provides the speech data to each speech recognition engine.

18. (Original) A speech recognition device according to Claim 17, wherein said predetermined sampling time interval is for one piece of sampling data.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A speech recognition device according to Claim ~~49~~15, wherein the information of the start position of said speech region is obtained by performing a recognition process on a first speech data by using said speech recognition engine, or is obtained by averaging data of speech data for several pieces of data from the start, which have been subjected to the recognition processing.